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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7673

BILL NUMBER: SB 380

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 6, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: E-scholars program.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Ford

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the E-scholars Program to provide computers and Internet access for certain students. The bill establishes the E-scholars Fund, and appropriates money in the fund to carry out the program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The E-Scholarship Program provides the financial resources necessary to award computers and Internet access to students. To qualify for the program, a student must be enrolled in the 9th grade of a public or accredited nonpublic school, be a Twenty-First Century Scholar, and be enrolled in a school that is a member of the Web Academy. The bill establishes the E-Scholars Program administered by the State Student Assistance Commission by delegating implementation and operation of the program to the Web Academy. About 10,000 students apply to be Twenty-First Century Scholars annually. If a computer costs about \$700 and Internet access is about \$12 a month, then cost would be about \$8.4 M the first year and \$9.9 M the second year.

The bill establishes the E-Scholars Fund administered by the State Student Assistance Commission. The expenses of administering the fund are paid from the fund. Money in the fund at the end of a fiscal year does not revert to the General Fund, and money in the fund is continuously appropriated.

This bill does not contain a specific appropriation.

Background: The Web Academy is the joint program of the Intelnet Commission and the Department of

Education that provides Internet technology, training, support, and hands-on experience for students, teachers, and families.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Student Assistance Commission.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Mike Huffman Department of Education 317-232-6672, Nick Vesper, State Student Assistance Commission, 317-233-5094.

Fiscal Analyst: Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.